DC

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KNIGHT TERRORS: ZATANNA™

13+
TEEN

CULVER - BALDEÓN - BEREDO

DAWN OF DC

DISCOVER HOW THE DARK KNIGHT MET THE MAN OF STEEL!

BATMAN • SUPERMAN
WORLD'S FINEST #18

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AUGUST

WRITTEN BY
MARK WAID
ART BY
TRAVIS MOORE
MAIN COVER BY DAN MORA

THIS FEELS LIKE A BAD DREAM.

BUT IT'S **NOT,** BECAUSE I'M ONE OF THE FEW PEOPLE LEFT ON EARTH THAT'RE ACTUALLY **STILL AWAKE.**

I'M ALL ALONE IN A MAZE OF TUNNELS UNDERNEATH **THE HALL OF JUSTICE.**

BEING HUNTED BY...

...THE ONLY ALLY I HAD LEFT!

YOU'RE MINE, WITCH!

YOU'LL HAVE TO CATCH ME FIRST!

KNIGHT AND DAME!

WRITTEN BY DENNIS CULVER
DRAWN BY DAVID BALDEON
COLORED BY RAIN BEREDO
LETTERED BY PAT BROSSEAU
EDITED BY BEN ABERNATHY
MAIN COVER BY DAVID BALDEON & RAIN BEREDO
VARIANT COVERS BY KENDRICK "KUNKKA" LIM & RILEY ROSSMO 1:25 VARIANT COVER BY DAN MORA
1:50 VARIANT COVER BY CHUMA HILL

RAAWRR

THAT CRAZED MONSTER CALLING HIMSELF **THE RUSTBRINGER** USED TO BE THE SUPERHERO CLIFF STEELE , A.K.A. **ROBOTMAN.**

HE SOMEHOW WASN'T AFFECTED WHEN **INSOMNIA** PUT THE REST OF THE PLANET TO SLEEP AND PULLED THEM ALL INTO THEIR NIGHTMARES.

THE REST OF THE **DOOM PATROL** WEREN'T AS LUCKY AS CLIFF.

HE GOT SENT HERE WHEN I USED MY MAGIC TO SUMMON ANY AVAILABLE HERO TO HELP ME FIGHT ...

IT'S HOPELESS, ZATANNA.

...THE SLEEPLESS KNIGHTS!

SIR MORBID, MAIDEN IRON, AND THEIR WRETCHED SLEEPLESS QUEEN.

YOU'RE OUTCLASSED!

AND OUTNUMBERED!

SUCCUMB TO MY WILL.

I AM INEVITABLE.

SHE'S THE ONE WHO **KNIGHTED** CLIFF AND MADE HIM A MONSTER.

AND NOW SHE WANTS TO DO THE SAME TO ME.

YOU'LL SOON BE ONE OF US!

NOT YET!

THE ONLY THING THAT'S BEEN KEEPING ME SAFE IS THE **MAGIC** OF THESE TUNNELS.

NEPO EMASES!

AND ITS SECRETS.

THEY WERE ENCHANTED TO CONFOUND OUR ENEMIES.

IN THE CENTER OF THE MAZE IS A **PANIC ROOM** WE BUILT FOR DAYS JUST LIKE THIS.

EXCEPT IT'S CURRENTLY PROTECTING MY SLEEPING ALLIES **WONDER WOMAN** AND **DETECTIVE CHIMP.**

FORTUNATELY WE PREPARED FOR ALL SORTS OF CONTINGENCIES.

KICK

AND BUILT SOME GOOD OLD-FASHIONED **TRAPS** TOO!

IT'S NOT ENOUGH TO BEAT THEM.

OR EVEN SLOW ALL OF THEM DOWN.

DNASKCIUQ!

BUT I CAN FILL IN THE BLANKS WITH SOME MAGIC OF MY OWN...

...AND MAYBE BUY MYSELF ENOUGH TIME TO GET OUT OF THESE TUNNELS AND SEAL THEM INSIDE.

ENOUGH!

FINALLY.

I'M SORRY I FAILED YOU, MY QUEEN.

WORRY NOT, LORD OF ROT AND RUIN...

I'VE NEVER BEEN HAPPIER TO SEE SO MANY STAIRS.

I HATE TO LEAVE ROBOTMAN DOWN HERE LIKE THIS, BUT I CAN FIGURE OUT HOW TO CHANGE HIM BACK ONCE I GET THE REST OF THE WORLD TO WAKE UP.

DON'T WORRY ABOUT YOUR FRIEND, BELOVED.

...FOR MY DARK MAGIC STILL HAUNTS THESE HALLS...

NOT AGAIN.

YOU KNOW WHAT THEY SAY, MAGIC ALWAYS HAS A PRICE.

YOU JUST NEVER SEEM TO BE THE ONE THAT **PAYS** IT, EH, PICCOLO?

ALWAYS USING MAGIC TO SOLVE ALL OF YOUR PROBLEMS. WITH NO REGARD FOR THE **CONSEQUENCES.**

THIS ISN'T SOME EVIL GHOST OF MY FATHER. JUST THE HATEFUL SORCERY OF THE SLEEPLESS QUEEN.

LAST TIME SHE TRIED THIS, ROBOTMAN AND I OVERCAME IT BY TAKING ON EACH OTHER'S BURDEN.

BUT HE'S NO LONGER HERE TO DO THAT.

BECAUSE THOSE CONSEQUENCES ARE ALWAYS FOR **EVERYONE ELSE.**

I'VE PAID THE PRICE, DAD. SO MANY TIMES.

GUILT **ISN'T** THE PRICE, ZATANNA. IT'S THE **BLOOD** THAT WAS SPILLED.

THE LIVES **RUINED** AND **LOST.**

AND NONE OF THAT, MY DEAR, IS EVER **YOURS.**

EVERYONE ALWAYS PAYS **YOUR** DEBTS TO MAGIC. CLIFF STEELE IS JUST THE LATEST **COSIGNED** TO YOUR **FOLLY.**

YOU THINK YOURSELF SOME GREAT MASTER OF MAGIC, BUT, FOOLISH DAUGHTER...

...YOU HAVE ALWAYS BEEN **LOST!**

*THIS SHOULDN'T BE POSSIBLE. THE MAGIC OF THE MAZE **DOESN'T** AFFECT ME. I SHOULD KNOW EXACTLY WHERE I AM HERE...*

...BUT I DON'T.

STOP KIDDING YOURSELF, LITTLE GIRL.

*HE'S MAKING ME LOSE **FAITH** IN MY OWN MAGIC. MAKING ME BUY INTO HIS TRICK. MAKING ME THE **MARK.***

JUST GIVE UP.

MY FATHER, MY **REAL** FATHER, TAUGHT ME BETTER THAN THIS.

DAI! YOU'RE JUST NOT GETTING IT, PICCOLO!

I'M SORRY, DAD, I JUST--

NO SORRIES, JUST ***LISTEN!***

THE AUDIENCE ISN'T BELIEVING IT BECAUSE ***YOU*** AREN'T.

ALL MAGIC, STAGE OR OTHERWISE, IS A CONFIDENCE GAME.

AND WITHOUT THAT...

...YOU ARE **NOTHING.**

HE'S RIGHT.

I WAS HOPING FOR BETTER SPORT.

HE DOESN'T EXIST ANYMORE. SOON YOU WON'T EITHER.

I'M SORRY I FAILED YOU, CLIFF.

I WARNED YOU THIS WAS INEVITABLE.

YOU ARE FAR TOO GREAT A *PRIZE* TO LET SLIP AWAY. PERHAPS EVEN MORE THAN THE *NIGHTMARE STONE* ITSELF.

INSOMNIA WILL BE PLEASED TO HAVE YOU JOIN OUR RANKS.

NOW, BECOME THE *MISTRESS OF PAINFUL MAGIC* YOU WERE ALWAYS MEANT TO BE.

I CHRISTEN THEE...

...THE DAME OF DEATH!

NEWEST TO THE ORDER OF--

SOMETHING... IS NOT RIGHT.

WHAT'S WRONG, MY QUEEN?

I THOUGHT YOU WERE ALL-POWERFUL?

IMPOSSIBLE!

NOT IMPOSSIBLE. JUST ***MORE-POWERFUL MAGIC!***

*JUST HAD TO BELIEVE **MORE** THAN SHE DID.*

STOP HER!

WITH PLEASURE.

I JUST HOPE THIS ***SWORD*** WORKS LIKE I THINK IT DOES!

WHAT THE @#&%?!

I'M BACK, BABY!

BEEN WANTING TO ***PUNCH*** YOU FOR A LONG TIME, ***HORSEFACE!***

STAY BACK, MY QUEEN! SHE CAN UNDO US!

HEY! I CAN DO THAT TOO!

LET'S SHUT THIS CLOWN QUEEN DOWN.

HELL YEAH!

I BELIEVE IT'S TIME WE RETURN TO OUR MASTER.

OH COME ON, YOU COWARDS!

THIS IS WHY I HATE MAGIC!

UH...NO OFFENSE.

AFTER TODAY, NONE TAKEN.

CLIFF...I NEVER MEANT FOR YOU TO SUFFER LIKE THIS. I'M--

ALL PART OF THE JOB. DON'T SWEAT IT.

I CAN SEND YOU BACK TO ***YOUR TEAM*** NOW.

NAW, I RECKON I GOT A BETTER SHOT AT ***WAKING THEM UP*** IF I STICK WITH ***YOU.***

WE REALLY ARE A DREAM TEAM.

DAMN RIGHT!

LATROP OT ELTTAB!

LET'S GO BUST SOME HEADS, THEN...

...HEX AND VIOLENCE STYLE!

TO BE CONTINUED IN KNIGHT TERRORS: NIGHT'S END!

AN EERIE MELODY HAUNTS THE GOTHAM CITY STREETS...
CAN THE DARK KNIGHT DISCOVER WHAT
SINISTER FORCE IS PLUCKING THE STRINGS?

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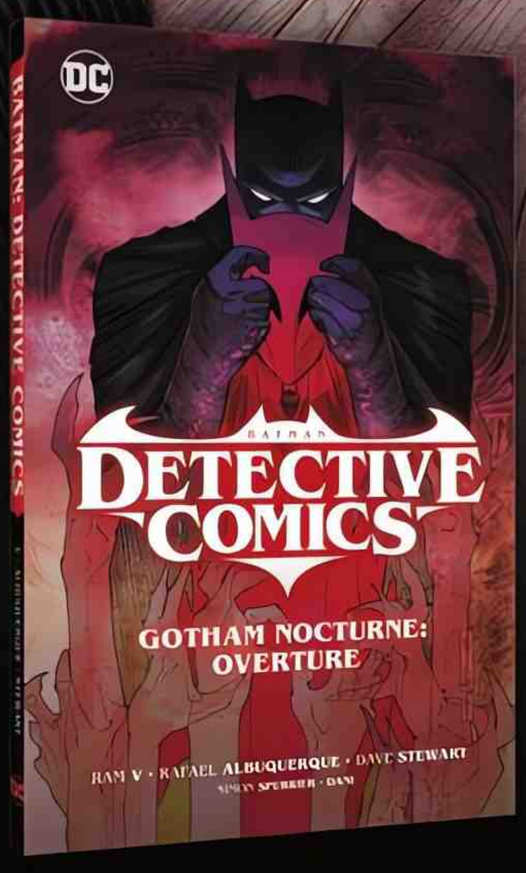

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AUGUST

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DC NATION INTERVIEW

GEORGE LOPEZ

RUDY IN

Blue Beetle

What can you tell us about Rudy, your character in the film?

On my last trip to Atlanta, I was in a car and I looked out the window and there was a guy working for the city with about a 10-inch goatee, glasses, long hair, and a city orange vest that had no sleeves, and I thought, man, that's me. I like the idea that we're so quick to judge somebody by the way they look, and Rudy is a bit of a contradiction from the way that he looks.

Why do you think the scarab chose Jaime Reyes as its host?

I think it chose Jaime because it knew that he's a good guy. The scarab chose somebody who would use their powers for good. If you go back into the bug lair and you see Ted Kord's previous Blue Beetle uniforms it was from a guy that had money, was a little bit eccentric, and would create these outfits for himself...but he couldn't fly anywhere.

What can fans expect from Blue Beetle's costume?

You've seen nothing until you've seen the Blue Beetle costume deploy and the pincers retract! It's amazing to see him fly and fight. He operates in a dark blue and black costume, similar to charcoal, which may be the coolest colors of all time. It feels more like a skin than an actual costume. I've seen a lot of bugs in my day, but I've never seen one that looks like that.

How is being a part of *Blue Beetle* meaningful to you?

As an actor, I've been fortunate enough to have done stand-up for a long time, had my own show named after me, and a number of other incredible things in my career. However, I would have hated to not be involved in this project. If I wasn't cast in this movie it would've been heartbreaking in a sense, but I'm honored to be a part of it. To know that you're specifically chosen to be in this great project, and give life to a guy like Rudy, is beyond an honor.

DC

Blue Beetle

IN THEATERS AUGUST 18!

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